Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00007 031132Z ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

-----031134Z 054277 /12

R 030852Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7515 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY PARIS CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 0007

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PFOR LA UR US

SUBJ: CALL ON NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR

REF: VIENTIANE 2984

1. ON DECEMBER 30 I CALLED ON NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR, M. PODOLSKI. THE AMBASSADOR, WHO CLAIMS TO SPEAK VIETNAMESE BUT HAS NO ENGLISH AND VERY LITTLE FRENCH, USED A RUSSIAN/ENGLISH INTERPRETER. HE IS OF MEDIUM HEIGHT, HEAVY SET, GREYING, HAS THREE LARGE GOLD TEETH AND APPEARS TO BE ABOUT 58 YEARS OLD. I HAD HEARD THAT HE HAD SPENT SOME SIX YEARS IN HANOI. AT THE START OF OUR CONVERSATION HE TOLD ME HE HAD SPENT TWELVE YEARS IN NORTH VIET-NAM, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY SAID HE HAD BEEN IN HANOI AS EARLY AS 1954-55. HE TOLD ME THAT AFTER MY DEPARTURE IN DECEMBER, 1955, THE THEN POLISH AMBASSADOR, PIETKA THOMAS, TOOK OVER THE AMERICAN CONSULATE RESIDENCE, VILLA FIORENTINA, 5, BA HUYEN CONFIDENTIAL

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THANH QUAN, AS HIS RESIDENCE.

2. PODOLSKI ASKED ME WHAT FUTURE U.S. POLICH IN REGARD TO LAOS WAS GOING TO BE UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. I RESPONDED BY SKETCHING THE DETAILS OF THE END OF THE AID OPERATION HERE IN 1975, AND THE PURELY BILATERAL, NON-OPERATIONAL NATURE OF US/LAO RELATIONS

SINCE THAT TIME.

3. PODOLSKI WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND AFFABLE AND CLAIMED TO KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT LAOS. HE IS, HOWEVER, OBVIOUSLY ONE OF THE RUSSIAN SPECIALISTS ON VIET-NAM. CORCORAN

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Message Attributes

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Subject: CALL ON NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, LA, UR, US, (PODOLSKI, M)

To: STATE Type: TE

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